IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-80 (Canceled)

81. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is solid and is constructed from a rigid, non-resilient load-bearing material;

wherein the spacing member defines an imaginary arcuate centerline residing between opposing sides of the external concavo-convex contour of said spacing member, said arcuate centerline forming less than half a circle such that said spacing member has a cashew shape having a uniform width along a majority length of the spacing member;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively

thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member, wherein said tapered portion is characterized by at least one smooth surface that is a part of either said upper surface or said lower surface and extends from said male corner line to said free insertion end, said smooth surface having an absence of corners, points or other abrupt edges, and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

82. (Canceled)

83. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is either inherently non-porous or is otherwise rendered non-porous, and is constructed from a rigid, non-resilient load-bearing material;

wherein the spacing member defines an imaginary arcuate centerline residing between opposing sides of the external concavo-convex contour of said spacing member, said arcuate centerline forming less than half a circle such that said spacing member has a cashew shape having a uniform width along a majority length of the spacing member;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member, wherein said tapered portion is characterized by at least one smooth surface that is a part of either said upper surface or said lower surface and extends from said male corner line to said free insertion end, said smooth surface having an absence of corners, points or other abrupt edges; and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

84. (Canceled)

85. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is solid and is either inherently non-porous or is otherwise rendered non-porous, and is constructed from a rigid, non-resilient load-bearing material;

wherein the spacing member defines an imaginary arcuate centerline residing between opposing sides of the external concavo-convex contour of said spacing member, said arcuate centerline forming less than half a circle such that said spacing member has a uniform width along a majority length of the spacing member;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member, wherein said tapered portion is

characterized by at least one smooth surface that is a part of either said upper surface or said lower surface and extends from said male corner line to said free insertion end, said smooth surface having an absence of corners, points or other abrupt edges; and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is solid and is either inherently non-porous or is otherwise rendered non-porous, and is constructed from a rigid, non-resilient load-bearing material;

wherein the spacing member has a cashew shape;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of

said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member, wherein said tapered portion is characterized by at least one smooth surface that is a part of either said upper surface or said lower surface and extends from said male corner line to said free insertion end, said smooth surface having an absence of corners, points or other abrupt edges; and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

88. (Canceled)

89. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is solid and is either inherently non-porous or is otherwise rendered non-porous;

wherein the spacing member defines an imaginary arcuate centerline residing between opposing sides of the external concavo-convex contour of said spacing member, said arcuate centerline forming less than half a circle such that said spacing member has a cashew shape having a uniform width along a majority length of the spacing member;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member, wherein said tapered portion is characterized by at least one smooth surface that is a part of either said upper surface or said lower surface and extends from said male corner line to said free insertion end, said smooth surface having an absence of corners, points or other abrupt edges; and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Previously presented) An intervertebral spacing implant comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine as a load-bearing replacement for a spinal disc, said spacing member further comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member;

wherein the spacing member is solid and is either inherently non-porous or is otherwise rendered non-porous, and is constructed from a rigid, non-resilient load-bearing material;

wherein the spacing member defines an imaginary arcuate centerline residing between opposing sides of the external concavo-convex contour of said spacing member, said arcuate centerline forming less than half a circle such that said spacing member has a cashew shape having a uniform width along a majority length of the spacing member;

wherein the spacing member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and a free insertion end, and wherein at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface comprises a male corner line, and wherein said spacing member includes a tapered portion between said male corner line and said free insertion end of said

spacing member such that said spacing member becomes progressively thinner from said male corner line toward said free insertion end of said spacing member; and

a rod member for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.